

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USSS-00 SY-05 FBIE-00 CPR-01

PRS-01 JUSE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC388

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONGEN LENINGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR PDIP PFOR US UN ASEC

SUBJ: STOLEN DIPLOMATIC LICENSE PLATES USED IN BANK ROBBERY

REF: USUN 1480 AND 1556

WE HAVE SENT NOTE VERBALE TO SMUN IN RESPONSE TO
SMUN'S COMPLAINT OF MAY 6TH CONCERNING STOLEN ALENOCHKIN
LICENSE PLATES. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

QTE

THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED
NATIONS AND HAS THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE ITS NOTE
DATED MAY 6, 1975 COMPLAINING ABOUT THE REPORTING BY
NEW YORK RADIO ON THE USE OF THE DIPLOMATIC LICENSE
PLATES REGISTERED TO N.I. ALENOCHKIN, FIRST SECRE-
TARY OF MISSION, BY THIEVES WHO ROBBED A BANK IN
MAMAICA, NEW YORK.

THE INITIAL REPORTS ON THE RADIO INDICATED THAT
OBSERVERS WHO WATCHED THE THIEVES LEAVE THE SCENE OF
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THE CRIME, BELIEVED THE LICENSE PLATES ON THE GET-

AWAY VEHICLE WERE 886-DPL, WHICH WERE REGISTERED TO MR. ALENOCHKIN. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS INITIALLY CONCLUDED THAT THE CAR AND LICENSE PLATES WERE STOLEN FROM THE STREET WHERE THE CAR WAS PARKED BY MR. ALENOCHKIN. LATER REPORTS ON THE RADIO, AND IN THE NEWSPAPERS CORRECTED AND CLARIFIED THE INITIAL REPORTS, AND MADE CLEAR THAT ONLY MR. ALENOCHKIN'S LICENSE PLATES WERE STOLEN. THESE NEWSPAPER REPORTS INDICATED THAT NO ONE COULD BE REACHED AT THE SOVIET MISSION FOR CLARIFICATION BECAUSE IT WAS MAY DAY.

ALL POLICE REPORTS ARE CHANNELLED BY POLICE RADIO FROM THE SCENE OF A CRIME TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS. THE PRESS, WHICH HAS AN OFFICE AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, PICKS UP ALL MESSAGES FOR USE ON TELEVISION AND RADIO IN THE NEWSPAPERS. THE POLICE ON THE SCENE NOTIFIED HEADQUARTERS ABOUT THE ROBBERY OF THE BANK. NO ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE MADE BY THE POLICE AUTHORITIES. NOTHING SAID OR DONE BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT COULD BE CONSIDERED AN UNFRIENDLY OR PROVOCATIVE ACT TOWARD THE USSR MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE INFORMATION PUBLISHED WOULD IN ANY CASE HAVE COME FROM EYEWITNESSES TO THE ROBBERY OR FROM THE BANK EMPLOYEES, WHO SPOKE FREELY TO THE PRESS REGARDING THE NUMBER OF THE LICENSE PLATES. FURTHERMORE, UNDER THE NEW YORK STATE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, NEW YORK STATE AUTHORITIES ARE OBLIGED TO ANSWER ALL INQUIRIES AS TO THE NAME OF THE HOLDER OF A GIVEN LICENSE PLATE. INDEED, AS THE SOVIET MISSION WAS ASSURED AT THE TIME, THE UNITED STATES MISSION TOOK ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MEDIA MIGHT PUBLISH SPECULATION REPORTS THAT WOULD REFLECT UNFAIRLY ON ANYONE.

AS THE SOVIET MISSION IS AWARE, THE UNITED STATES MISSION WAS IN CONTINUING TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH THE SOVIET MISSION IN AN EFFORT TO REASSURE THE MISSION AS TO THE SAFETY OF MR. ALENOCHKIN WHOSE WHEREABOUTS UNCLASSIFIED

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WERE NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN.

AN INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED TO APPREHEND AND BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR STEALING MR. ALENOCHKIN'S LICENSE PLATES.

THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE PERMANENT MIS-

SION OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO
THE UNITED NATIONS THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST
CONSIDERATION. END TEXT
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